

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes
Meeting held 30th August 2016

Those present: Ricky McMaster (Chair), Bill Calderwood (Vice Chair), Jim Henderson, Marilyn Woods, Neil Arthur, Colin McKenzie, Peter McMullen, Daniel Bowles, John Lamont, Liz Evans, Barry Mochan, Cllr Bruce and Sgt Dodds.

In attendance Jim Nichols, Hugh Boag, Gus McLeod

1. Welcome / Apologies

Apologies: B Mochan, H Gardiner

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes of 26th July - proposed JH, seconded CMcK

3. Matters Arising:

Toilets

A further meeting has been held with NAC, CMAL and AEG representatives. NAC had prepared a 60 page Engineers Report looking at every premise on the island. A summary of remedial work and costs has been requested. 5 out of 7 are OK to use. It was felt that the staff requirement may be equivalent to one man and a van for the year. In the medium to long term, there is the need to consider how income could be generated.

It was agreed the group would meet again to resolve any further questions prior to arranging a meeting with the relevant village groups who have indicated interest in taking the services over.

Response had been received from Patricia Gibson MP to the Community Council note on this issue. She had confirmed the situation sits with NAC as it is a non-statutory service. She encourages the Community Council to try and reach some agreement which maintains the services to support visitors and residents alike.

Expenses

The treasurer reported that all claims for this year had now been received.

Camper Vans

The draft flyer which is being prepared by VisitArran on this matter was received in response to our message from last meeting. This was circulated. There were no significant concerns voiced and Flyer is now expected to go to the printers.

4. Police Report

Sgt Dodds gave a full report.

161 Incidents reported, majority of them RTA (last year was 85 to this time)

Quite a few between Brodick and Corrie.

Will be attempting to raise awareness.

WC – cyclists and walkers between Corrie and Brodick are concerned.

Sgt Dodds – there has been speed checks. Offered to attend Village meeting.

Q. Telephone calls route to a call centre in Glasgow, are they re-routed to Arran?

Sgt Dodds advised that people should ask to speak to Arran Police.

In respect of flashing lights at Brodick School Gus McLeod reported there has been a delay in replacing the broken unit.

Cyclists

Sgt Dodds stated the organised cycle race this weekend has 230 cyclists involved. Approval was granted by NAC after consultation with Police and Fire Brigade.

It was confirmed they are cycling against the clock.

Concerns expressed regarding safety aspect of racing.

Road Closures in Blackwaterfoot

WC circulated an initial notice and was expecting a signed notice following final agreement.
Gus – buses will be using the Rodden.
It is not possible for pedestrian access but local arrangements will be in place.

Community Council Elections

NAC are awaiting response from tonight's meeting.
WC presented a paper with a couple of options for consideration.
Cllr Bruce suggested that CC continues at present, to support our communities.

Agreed

After discussion on the various points the group agreed that we will continue in post until it is clear what the outcome of the elections are.

We would request that an advert is placed in the local paper as soon as possible with the closing date 4 week from date of publication.
Hope fully this would suggest a closing date of 14th October at the latest.

We accept that our September meeting will therefore be undertaken by the current council members.

We will then in mid-October be informed of the outcome of the advert and if we then need to address any locations where the response has been in excess of the allocated numbers and requires a local meeting to allow the final appointments to be confirmed.
We will need to agree the process for that as, if we are required to advertise the meeting with a further 4 weeks' notice this will push the village meetings beyond the recognised Oct date at which we could have a situation which would not be clear.
New members would have been declared but the representatives for the villages awaiting a meeting would be undecided.

This will mean we may not be able to confirm the appointment of officers until the November meeting.

It is expected NAC will pick up advertising costs.

7. Sub Group

a) Ferry Committee

WC had circulated report.

Long Stay Car Park @ Brodick? It was reported there is no provision in short to medium term.
There will be pick up and drop off provision.

CM – expressed concerns re Islay Highland Games weekend with MV Isle of Arran. Port staff gave no assistance re: assisting people in the un-booked queue of 30 vehicles. Lots of discussion around Bookings, Ticketing and Traffic Management in light of the “operational issues” related to the period of uncertainty of the IoA's availability for three days.

It was explained that the topic had been covered at the FC meeting and CalMac management had been asked to respond on several points. Contrary to some reports even at the FC meeting on the Monday the situation was not clear whether or not the IoA would sail but it was confirmed that the “issue” was an attempt to assist Islay for their show. Communications were highlighted as a major concern and several examples were used to highlight “opportunities” for the operator to address.

FC Minutes from July were approved and have been posted on our website.

Note requesting cycle groups to contact harbour office has had limited response so far.

No further update on Ardrossan Harbour Task force. Minister has indicated he continue to support the programme.

Timetabling: Winter timetable is still not available to book but does show the revised Sunday schedule as requested by the AFC. (Note: since the FC meeting, sailings can now be booked but still no formal confirmation of the agreed schedule)

The FC have requested a meeting with the Transport Minister to discuss key items and await a date for the meeting.

The new contract had not been signed therefore no details were yet available of the "improvements" suggested to be included. That has also changed since our meeting so we hope to hear a date to be briefed on major changes.

Current trial procedures for lift access are to be extended into winter schedule.

Proposal being prepared By CalMac port manger to make some improvements to traffic access at Ardrossan to create an additional lane to help with access to car park and reduce queuing.

Next Mtg will be held 11th Sept and no meeting in October.

b) Elderly Forum next meeting September.

c) Arran Economic Group

ArranSkills facebook page launched which was covered in Banner article 2 wks ago.

Housing study. Second draft of report is in preparation.

Harbour development - looking at potential uses for current ferry terminal. Consultant appointed to prepare information.

Connectivity to develop an island resource. Supporting 4G pilot and other digital commercial solutions being reviewed.

Awaiting outcome from structure review for possible impact on CC.

Next Meeting 21st October

d) Forestry

Update note received from Neil Wilson on several points but initial indication is that the proposed site for the south end may not be practical for several reasons and they are starting to consider an alternative location. No progress on Machrie site.

The site at South end of Island will not progress.

e) Connect Arran

Machrie Shiskine Valley alternative Ian Adamson is the new employee of Arran Broadband, whose initial focus is around Shiskine and Machrie.

RMcM BT Openreach have dumped spoil over 2 x water tobies.

JL spoke of how BT will reduce contract price if Broadband speed contracted for is not met.

4G rollout still awaiting service providers to sign up. Lamlash are currently reviewing their constitution and awaiting further news. Alternative mast designs for Lamlash location to be discussed prior to planning application which will NOT be prepared until provider is confirmed. Unfortunately this now looks to drive an earliest date sometime early next year for the service to be operating.

BT Broadband roll-out progressing slowly.

Machrie / Shiskine Valley alternative is now handed over to operator. Local manager appointed and tech support in place.

Cllr Bruce Report

My Bus – New contract awarded to Stagecoach from October.

The Administration @ NAC has now changed.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 27th September 2016.